

## In this week's Kukini



■ 13th Air Force Airmen were among those participating in a recent exercise **A5**

## News Notes

**Military Spouse Appreciation Day** — This is scheduled 8 May, 0900-1200, Airman & Family Readiness Center. Spouses, please join us in celebrating 2009 Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Call 449-0300 for information.

**MPF customer service closure** — The MPF Customer Service Section will be closed Friday, 8 May for an official function. For emergencies please contact Capt Bixel at 366-2624

**PREP Couples Workshop** — Give your relationship the gift of one special day. A day dedicated to helping you both learn to communicate better and resolve differences. Saturday, May 9 from 0900-1600. Lunch will be provided; space is limited. Sponsored by the AFRC, Chaplains, and the Mental Health Flight. Please call 449-0188 for more information or to RSVP.

**Power Outage** — An outage is scheduled for the morning of 12 May from 0300 to 0700 that will affect the following facilities: 2098, Burger King (2096), BXtra (1235), Food Court (1250), First Hawaiian Bank (1257), Hickam Credit Union (1256), BX (1232), Civil Engineering (1200, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1207, 1220) and the street lights and traffic signals on Vandenburg Blvd. This scheduled outage is to facilitate the replacement of electrical switchgear and transformers. The Fox/Vandenburg intersection will be posted as an all-way stop with temporary stop signs. In addition, SFS personnel will be posted to assist with traffic safety. Please exercise an extra measure of caution when transiting this area.

**Force Development Flight closure** — Office will be closed on Friday, 15 May 2009 to support the CCAF Graduation and College Education Fair. This closure will affect Base Training, Education Office, and Military Testing Offices. POC: FDF at 15mss.dpe@hickam.af.mil.

**Fitness Center hot water outage** — The Hickam Fitness & Sports Center will experience a hot water outage from 0900 11 May to 1600 13 May as part of the conversion to solar water heating. Cold water will still be

See NEWS NOTES, A6

**Services** B2  
**Crossword** B3  
**Sudoku** B3  
**Hickam History** B3  
**Movies** B4  
**Classifieds** B5-8

# Air Force Assistance Fund 2009 drive exceeds goals

By Chris Aguinaldo  
Hickam Kukini editor

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — 15th Airlift Wing leadership has commended Team Hickam's outstanding turnout for the annual Air Force Assistance Fund drive. This year's effort took in \$122,983 over six weeks — which healthily surpassed the goal of \$96,578.

"The Air Force Assistance Fund gives directly back to our own Airmen who require aid in an emergency, financial hardships and educational needs as well as provides some assistance to our Air Force widows or widowers," said 15 AW Commander Col. Giovanni Tuck.

"Thanks to the generous contributions of the men and women of

Hickam Air Force Base and our tenant partners, as well as donations from our downtown community, the 2009 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign was truly a success," Col. Tuck continued.

Airmen could choose four charities to receive their donation: the Air Force Aid Society, the Air Force Village Foundation, the Air Force Enlisted Village Foundation, and the Curtis E. Lemay Foundation.

These organizations help with aid in an emergency, educational needs or securing a retirement home for Air Force widows or widowers in times of need.

Adds Vice Commander Col. Dean Wolford about this year's generous outpouring, "Despite a struggling economy, our Airman's com-

mitment to caring for our Air Force family — active duty, retirees, reservists, guard and their dependents, including surviving spouses — in times of need remains strong!"

"This year's annual AFAF effort to raise funds for charitable affiliates was truly a success and one to be proud of," Col. Wolford said.

The continued longevity of the AFAF thanks to caring Airmen reassures outgoing 15 AW Command Chief CMSgt. Thomas Westernmeyer that the Air Force takes care of its own. "AFAF has always been there since I came in the Air Force. Although I have never needed to use it, I know it is there and that is a good thing."

For more about the fund, go online to [www.afassistancefund.org](http://www.afassistancefund.org).



U.S. Air Force photo illustration by Senior Airman Carolyn Viss

## Rewarding a great 'IDEA'

George Solomon receives a \$10,000 check from 15th Airlift Wing Vice Commander Col. Dean Wolford at a commander's call April 28 for a winning submission to the Innovative Development Through Employee Awareness (IDEA) Program. Mr. Solomon is a 15th Aircraft Maintenance squadron aircraft electrician who requested a source maintenance and recoverability code change that allowed a previously-expendable \$16,631 C-17 ice detector to be repaired for about \$5,000. In the last two years, 135 parts have been

thrown away at a cost of \$2,190,105; however, repairing the part would only have cost \$769,500, which adds up to a total cost savings of \$1,420,605 in two years.

The IDEA Program is an incentive program that promotes process improvement and/or resource savings through ideas submitted by military and civilian employees. More information is available in Air Force Instruction 38-401 or contact the 15th Mission Support Squadron Manpower-Organization and Readiness Flight at 448-IDEA.

# Island Soldier has H1N1

Submitted by Tripler Army Medical Center

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER — As noted in a statement from Gov. Linda Lingle this week, the Centers for Disease Control confirmed that a Hawaii-based Soldier and his spouse have contracted the novel influenza A H1N1 infection.

The Soldier, returning from a trip to Texas, displayed symptoms and sought medical care. He and his wife, who also developed flu-like symptoms, have been treated per pre-established protocol with antiviral medications and placed on home isolation. Both are now recovering well.

Since the public health emergency was declared last week, the clinical staff at all military treatment facilities in Hawaii have been on heightened alert to screen patients with flu-like symptoms and who have traveled within the past seven days to areas with reported cases.

Leaders, at all command levels, are taking steps to prevent and reduce the spread of the virus, including educating its military members, its civilian workforce and their families.

"We work year-round with our other military services and the state to coordinate surveillance of emerging infectious diseases. We do this regularly during the flu season in the fall," said Brig. Gen. Steve Jones, commander of Tripler Army Medical Center. "The soldier who was identified as a possible H1N1 flu case is but one example of how we all work rapidly and effectively together as a team."

Department of Defense officials created and maintain a Pandemic Influenza Watchboard, available at [www.dod.mil/pandemicflu](http://www.dod.mil/pandemicflu).

For base level information, see the Commander's Access Channel.



# Use some sense before hitting the road

**Commentary by Airman Anthony Jennings**  
96th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Nobody ever did, or ever will, escape the consequences of his or her choices.

No sane individual wants to live with the blood of another human being on his or her hands. I certainly don't. But on Oct. 19, I made a choice that could have resulted in injury or death. I got behind the wheel of a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

As early as I can remember, I've heard countless stories of people who have had loved ones taken from them because someone chose to drink and drive. Every time I listened to each account, I recalled thinking, "How could someone make the choice to do something that; not only put their life at risk, but the lives of others?"

It was a normal Sunday morning, waking up with a headache the size of Texas

and a nauseating discomfort in my belly, a hangover that will live in infamy.

"I had a few more drinks than I should have," I thought.

Now anyone who experienced nights where a few turned into, "more than I should have," probably heard of some effective ways to get rid of a hangover. In the movies, you see people treating hangovers with coffee, others, Tylenol. In this case, I didn't have either and wasn't in the mood to get any.

Of course there's the ridiculous mythic hangover cure of another alcoholic beverage, also known as "the hair of the dog that bit you." The origin of that literal phrase comes from the erroneous method for the treatment of a rabid dog bite by placing the hair from the dog on the wound.

Applied to drinks, it means, if overnight you have indulged too freely, take a glass of the same indulgence the next morning to soothe the nerves.

"If this dog bites you, soon as out of your bed, take a hair

of the tail in the morning," said Ebenezer Brewer, author of the Dictionary of Phrases and Fables.

It was a desperate time that called for a desperate measure, so I decided to give it a "shot."

One third of a bottle of Jack Daniels later, I didn't feel the hangover as much but the sour feeling in my stomach didn't disappear. While under the influence, the ability to make logical decisions dissipates rapidly with every sip. So the decision to get into the car and go to get something that could fill the empty void in my stomach didn't sound like a bad idea.

It was about half way to Waffle House when I realized just how drunk I was, because the white lines, which are supposed to help you stay within your lane, were moving.

After eating, I felt much better. Though, I finally came to the conclusion that I simply replaced a hangover with drunkenness and a full belly.

The drive home was a long, constant struggle between alertness and consciousness. I made it through the gate, across the base and

back to the dorm parking lot.

"Home, at last," I remember thinking.

Pulling in, I saw a friend on the second floor, and for some reason or another I thought it would be a good idea to rev up my engine, show off. Yeah, show them how cool I really am. After all, I'm invincible, I can drink and drive without any consequence. Another example of the effects of alcohol on a drunk: ego.

Engine roars, tires squeal, I pass out.

Boom, I crash. I jump the curb and hit a tree but I don't stop, no... I have to park the car. Two of my tires on the driver side are flattened in the crash. Steering is impeded, I smash into a parked car while attempting to pull into an empty spot. Reverse, try it again. I hit the same car, again.

I finally come to rest six inches from the car I hit. This is surreal, this can't be happening.

## What Just Happened?

Within minutes, Security Forces Airmen are on the

scene. I'm off to jail.

What seemed like a fairly innocent decision, the choice to drink in the first place, was followed by a sequence of events that led to more impaired decisions and subsequently landed me with an Article 15, a reprimand, more than \$3,500 in car damages, loss of rank, six months of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team meetings, and suspended \$100 pay for the next two months.

Worse than any punishment that was issued, is the thought that I could have killed someone or myself, all because of one choice: to drive while under the influence.

As a journalist, I've covered stories and taken countless photos of safety briefings and events like the "Save a Life" tour, educating Airmen about the risks of irresponsible drinking and driving while intoxicated.

At times we can get numb to the leadership barrage about the responsibility we have to drink responsibly, because we've heard it time and time again. We think things like, "Oh, it can't or

won't happen to me." A sober mind may be able to decipher the logical decision, but an inebriated one has clouded judgment.

This is my call to Airmen: Use common sense, plan ahead, designate a driver if drinking becomes part of the night's activities, or simply stay put until the alcohol is filtered out of your system.

To leaders and supervisors: Make sure your troops know all the outlets at their disposal, like Airmen Against Drunk Driving. Though they may have heard it millions of times before, tell them again and remind them of the possible consequences.

I've made decisions I regret but have learned from them. Sometimes leaders try to drive home the severity of the consequences a decision to drink and drive will have on your life. But as someone who's living with those consequences daily, I can tell you those scare tactics don't come close to the horror you experience in the aftermath of a DUI.

I'm not an idiot, but you don't have to be dumb to make a dumb decision.

**The editorial deadline is the FRIDAY PRIOR to Friday publications. Prior coordination is MANDATORY. Articles and announcements must have complete information, bylines, credits and contact information.**

## Share your stories

Do you have unique AF experiences? Is there an issue that touches you or your family that you have written or want to write about? Public Affairs wants to hear from YOU. Contribute to the PACAF Pixels 15th Airlift Wing weblog! Submit ponderings, ideas or scribbles to 15AW.PA@hickam.af.mil with "Blog submission" in the subject line. Stories and photos may also be published in the *Hickam Kukini*. Write on!



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**Kukini:** Meaning swift and valued messenger, the Kukini in ancient times took news from one Hawaiian leader to another.



## Do you wanna dance?

U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific - Hawaii vocalist Staff Sgt. Richard Vasquez dances with a crowd participant during a performance at Kohala High School in Kona, Hawaii, as part of a community outreach program, during the band's tour last month of the Big Island.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Cohen A. Young

# Don't misuse prescription drugs

**Commentary by Col. Howard Hayes**  
354th Medical Group commander

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — In May 2007, a technical sergeant in my squadron took a single pill from his son's prescription bottle. That pill started him down the road toward a court martial and discharge from the Air Force.

The drug was a low level amphetamine used to correct Attention Deficit Disorder. Both the sergeant and his son suffered from the same condition and used the same medication. The NCO had exhausted his supply and since he was too busy to make an appointment he took the pill from his son's supply. Without a current prescription he was found guilty of illegal drug use.

When I heard about the case I thought "No big deal, it was the correct drug, he had just run out." After all, his doctor would probably renew the prescription when he went in for his next appointment. As it turns out, this NCO lost his line number for master sergeant and was referred for court martial.

Nothing I could do as his commander could stop the process as he had turned up positive on a urinalysis test without a prescription. The case was referred to a major general who allowed the sergeant to remain in the Air Force after paying a fine and losing his line number.

Later that year, a master sergeant complained to his friend that he was

having trouble concentrating on the job. His Top-3 buddy told him that it sounded just like his Attention Deficit Disorder and he gave the sergeant one of his pills. He told his friend to wait until the weekend to take the drug since he didn't know how it would affect another person.

Well, that weekend his friend took the pill and on Monday it was detected on a urinalysis test. The master sergeant was found guilty of distributing drugs and his friend was guilty of using an amphetamine without a prescription. Both were lucky enough to receive early retirements.

Each time the clinic gives you a new prescription, your provider will give you instructions on the use of that drug. When you pick the drug up the pharmacist will review your medications in the computer, print out an instruction sheet for your use, ensure the bottle is properly labeled, and finally ask if you understand how to use the drug.

If you are taking an antibiotic, we will tell you to take all the pills. Although you may begin to feel well soon after the first dose, it is important to consume all the pills in order to affect possible resistant strains of bacteria. If you are prescribed a pain killer, you must use the drug for the injury that it is currently prescribed for and not store the drug for future use.

You cannot self-prescribe medications for the same symptoms just because you have pills left over, unless your current provider has clearly given you permission to do so and

your prescription is still valid. And, you cannot provide your drugs to another person; that's a violation of both state laws and the Uniformed Code of Military Justice.

Drugs have a shelf-life, are dangerous around young children, and will only cause you problems when they are no longer needed. If you have old prescriptions the President's Office of National Drug Control Policy recommends that you:

1. Take your prescription drugs out of their original containers.
2. Mix drugs with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.
3. Put this mixture into a disposable container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub, or sealable bag.
4. Conceal or remove any personal information, including prescription number, on the empty containers by covering it with black permanent marker or duct tape, or by scratching it off.
5. Place the sealed container with the mixture, and the empty drug containers, in the trash.

Bottom line: Don't take drugs from your friends or give drugs to others — it's illegal; it can ruin your career; and it can have serious health consequences.

# Ask the JAG about Household Goods claims

By 15 AW/JA

Aloha Team Hickam! Welcome to the second Ask the JAG column, where we provide helpful legal advice to ensure that we, as a team, are ready to fly, fight and win. This installment will be about one of the Air Force’s innovations: Household Goods claims through the Air Force Claims Service Center.



Ask the JAG

Dayton, OH 45420.

**Q:** I am used to turning in the “pink sheet” with the legal office, how does the AFCSC handle the claims process now?

**A:** The “pink sheet” is still an important part of the claims process, so don’t throw it away just yet. As usual, the front side of the “pink sheet” will be filled out by the delivering carrier for any damages at the time of delivery. This will be sent to the transporting and packing carriers by the delivering carrier. The back side of the “pink sheet” is still used to document the damages found by you during the next 70 days. Yes, this is a change from the previous 75 days allowed. The change is in order to provide time for the AFCSC to send the “pink sheet” to the carriers.

To complete the initial claims process you have a choice: you can log onto the internet and fill out a virtual “pink sheet” at

<https://claims.jag.af.mil>, you can e-mail and scan the hard copy to the AFCSC or you can use the regular mail system to submit your form. Regardless of how you choose to submit your form, it must arrive at the AFCSC NLT 70 days after receipt of delivery. After the AFCSC has sent the claim to the carrier you should be contacted by a carrier representative with further information to finalize your claim.

**Q:** I am working through the carrier from the start. Is this allowed?  
**A:** This is allowed. In fact, it is actually the preferred way of dealing with your claim. If you follow the carrier representative’s instructions, they can and will help you to finalize your claim directly through them.

**Q:** I have no way to contact the carrier, and I have not heard from them after submission of my “pink sheet.” What am I supposed to do now?

**A:** The AFCSC can assist you with contact numbers for the carrier as

well as attempt to contact the carrier on your behalf. Call them using one of the numbers above, and they will be ready and able to assist you with any concerns.

**Q:** So what exactly does the legal office do for HHG claims now?  
**A:** We no longer have a direct role in the claims process for HHG. We can direct you to the AFCSC contact points and aid you in filing your claim on your own, but we no longer take the “pink sheets.” Regardless of what the carrier tells you, you are supposed to use the AFCSC for all Household Goods claims.

**Q:** The carrier is not offering me enough compensation and I need some help, where do I go?  
**A:** Please contact the AFCSC directly at 1-877-754-1212 or at <https://claims.jag.af.mil>.

We at 15 AW/JA hope this helps you understand the new and improved HHG claims system and the AFCSC.

## Nuisance pet incidents on the rise at Hickam

Submitted by 15th Security Forces Squadron

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — Recently we’ve experienced an increase in the number of reported nuisance pet incidents on base.

Most of the incidents can be attributed to pet owners’ failure to exercise their dogs on a leash.

Wing instructions and Hickam Community Housing guidance on Animal Control require owners to exercise their pets on a leash. An electronic leash does not meet the intent of this provision and cannot be use in lieu of a leash which physically connects the owner to his or her pet.

Allowing a dog to exercise without a leash is prohibited, and is often the major contributing factor in nuisance pet incidents.

The following are some examples of nuisance pet activity:

- Allowing pets to bite, scratch, attack people or other pets.
- Allowing an animal to damage the property of anyone other than its owner (includes government property).
- Allowing or permitting an animal to bark, whine and howl in an excessive, continuous or untimely fashion so as to

interfere with the reasonable use and enjoyment of neighboring premises.

- Failing to remove feces deposited by a pet on any public street, sidewalk, gutter, park or other publicly owned or private property.

As implied with each of the above infractions, an action or inaction by the pet owner is always the source of a nuisance pet incident. Pet owners are responsible

for the care and actions of their animals at all times. Base residents who fail to control their pets risk the privilege of keeping them on base, and could jeopardize the ability to remain as a Hickam Community Housing tenant. Maintaining a safe and enjoyable community is the objective. This takes everyone’s continued support and cooperation.

To report a Nuisance Pet Incident, contact the 15th Security Forces Squadron at 449-COPS.



# PACAF Airmen replenish island water supply

By Tech. Sgt. Cohen A. Young  
Defense Media Activity-Hawaii

ROI-NAMUR, Marshall Islands — Six Airmen from Pacific Air Forces arrived here earlier this year on Feb. 4 to cure the island’s contaminated water supply, which was ruined due to unusually high tides.

According to water plant operator Greg Heffner, unusual weather around the Pacific region caused six irregular high tides to flow across Roi-Namur and into the island water supply. The island gets the majority of its water from lens wells which recover rain water which Mr. Heffner treats daily.

Three Airmen from the 354th Civil Engineering Squadron, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, and three from the 18th Civil Engineering Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan, arrived with water treatment equipment to stabilize the water supply of the island. Since their arrival, the six people have used their Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit to convert non-potable water into 1,840,000 gallons of drinkable water. The Airmen have been working around the clock since their arrival with Mr. Heffner.

Mr. Heffner, a former Airman himself, said that it was great working with the Airmen.

“Together we’ve treated more than 40,000 gallons daily and they have exceeded expectations,” he said.

The treated water isn’t used just for drinking; it also enables the proper cleaning of the satellites on the island and keeps them from rusting. Roi-Namur and several other islands in this region are part of the Reagan Test



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Cohen A. Young

**Civil Engineer Airmen work to connect tubes to water tanks to replenish the water supply that was ruined by high tides in the early part of February in the Marshall Islands. The Airmen have treated more than 1,840,000 gallons of water since their arrival Feb. 4. Three of the team members are from Kadena Air Base, Japan, and three are from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.**

Site, which is vital to the U.S. space program. The test site works directly with VandenbergAFB, Calif., and other rocket launch sites in the monitoring of much of the world’s security.

“The people here need the treated water for corrosion control,” said Staff Sgt. Heath Willis, a Kenai, Alaska native with the 354th CES at Eielson AFB.

“We’ve done a good thing here,” said Staff Sgt. Steven Kivetta, a North Pole, Alaska native with the 354th CES. “I think with our help, they have been able to conduct their day-to-day business.”

The Airmen have been working 10 to 12 hours a day treating the water by running the water from the lens wells to their ROWPU’s to the water bladders and back through the

ROWPU’s in which they use Sodium Hex as a polymer which combines all chemicals in the water into one piece which is caught in the filters. This clears the water of harmful chemicals.

These Airmen enabled the mission of the RTS to go on in ensuring stability of the region as well as the world by treating the island’s contaminated water.

## Service still an option for separating Airmen

By Staff Sgt. Erin Smith  
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE — Making the decision to reenlist or separate from military service can be stressful, to say the least.

Often, Airmen are torn between continuing their service or starting anew and losing time they have invested toward personal retirement goals.

Master Sgt. Kimberly Aaron, Air National Guard recruiter, and Master Sgt. Gary Garnto, Air Force Reserve recruiter, are hoping to open the doors to Airmen

interested in continuing their career in the Air Force as part-time employees.

“The Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve may be a great complement to your civilian plans upon separating from the service,” said Sergeant Aaron.

“Our programs are not designed to replace your existing plans but rather [to] simply complement.”

As recruiters, both have the duties of interviewing possible candidates one-on-one as well as at separation briefings.

A meeting with local Guard

and Reserve recruiters is also mandatory for Airmen who are separating from active duty.

“This is a way of taking care of Airmen,” said Sergeant Garnto. “We want to show them the opportunities available to them and the different paths they can take when deciding to separate from active duty.”

The requirements for enlisting in ANG and the AFR are similar to active duty.

Members must be discharged honorably, have a good re-enlistment code, meet current physical standards, maintain a current

security clearance and have no unfavorable information on file.

One of the major benefits, along with base exchange and commissary privileges, is health insurance. Reservists and guardsmen are eligible for TRICARE Reserve Select.

“Many people get out, take a civilian job then call back because they didn’t realize health insurance would cost them \$700 per month for their family,” said Sergeant Garnto.

The part-time opportunity allows Airmen to also follow their new career choice and education-

al dreams while providing some financial stability and points toward retirement.

“As long as they don’t quit completely, we are happy,” added Sergeant Garnto. “If they find something that suits them, why give up those four, six or eight years.”

For more information about the Air National Guard, contact Sergeant Aaron at 449-0680.

For Air Force reserve opportunities, contact Sergeant Garnto at 449-0655. More information is available at [www.goang.com](http://www.goang.com) or [www.afreserve.com](http://www.afreserve.com).

# Airmen keep F-16's airborne during Balikatan 2009, also help community

**By Lance Cpl. Cristina Noelia Gil**  
Marine Forces Pacific, Public Affairs

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines — Through rain or scorching sun, U.S. Air Force maintainers stood ready to support fighter pilots here from the 56th Fighter Wing, at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., during their participation in Balikatan 2009.

Balikatan, which in English means “shoulder to shoulder,” is an annual joint bilateral exercise designed to improve United States and the Republic of the Philippines combined planning, combat readiness and interoperability for a wide range of operations, from humanitarian assistance to peacekeeping missions throughout the region.

To assist pilots during Balikatan 2009, a maintainer’s top priority is the safety of the pilots and aircraft. Before a flight, during a flight and well after, the crew chief is responsible for maintaining the aircraft, observing its safety and providing flight maintenance in any number of environments.

“Just like the F-16 [Fighting Falcon] can fly through any weather, we also need to be prepared to fight through the elements to ensure the aircraft are always in the best condition,” said Senior Airman Matthew Golitko, a 63rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief.

The air component participation in Balikatan 09, was planned and organized by 13th Air Force at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. This participation included more than six fighter aircraft and 143 personnel from 30 air force specialties here to support Balakatan 09.

The knowledge and expertise of the maintainers who participated in this year’s exercise is a huge part of successful flight operations, and is greatly appreciated by the pilots who rely on their skills to keep them flying safely.

“They are the guys who help us ensure our birds are safe and properly maintained,” said

Maj. Tom Courtney, an F-16 pilot from the 56th FW. “They have the skills needed to identify possible issues and fix them before they cause any damage.”

To highlight the enormous contributions air force maintainers make to every mission, the name of each crew chief is painted on the aircraft they are charged to maintain, right alongside the pilot’s hatch.

“We are the last people to see them before they take off and the first to greet them when they return,” said Senior Airman Golitko, from Cleveland, Ohio. “Having our names painted on the aircraft we maintain symbolizes how important the crew chief is to the mission and is a great source of pride for all of us.”

Throughout Balikatan 2009, Philippine and U.S. military maintenance personnel and pilots had been working together to learn about each other’s aircraft. The pilots have also used the time to gain more flight experience in foreign skies.

“It has been a very helpful and positive experience,” said Major Courtney. “It is better to be here with the the Philippine Air Force, learning how they do things and what they work with than to be on the other side of the world just hearing about it.”

The crew chief’s mission is a small part of the much larger picture of the exercise. Balakatan 09, which ran through April 30, consisted of three simultaneous events. Event one included humanitarian and civic assistance events designed to improve U.S. and Philippine military civic action cooperation.

During this event United States and Philippine medical personnel conducted multiple medical, dental, veterinary and engineering civic action projects.

Phase two was a scenario-based staff exercise which focused on joint force management at the headquarters levels, while phase three involves cross training and field training exercises.



Marine Corps Photo by Lance Cpl. Cristina Noelia Gil

**Above, Staff Sgt. Timmie Manning, a crew chief assigned to the 63rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., inspects an F-16 Fighting Falcon during Balikatan 2009.**

Marine Corps Photo by Petty Officer Second Class Robert Clowney

**Left, Lt. Col. Jack Maixner, commander of the 63rd Fighter Squadron at Luke Air Force Base, gives school supplies to Filipino children at the Sapangbato village community center as part of a volunteer community relations event.**



**NEWS NOTES, From A1**

available. Please utilize pool #1 for hot water needs. POC: Alan Katase 15CES 448-2866. For more information, please call 448-4640.

**Airmen council meeting**

— This is scheduled Tuesday, 12 May at 1530 in the Enlisted club Kauai Room. All Airmen E-1 through E-4 welcome. Contact SrA James Watts at 449-7798 for additional information.

**MSgt promotion release celebration**

— Hickam personnel are cordially invited to join us in celebrating the promotion of Team Hickam's newest Master Sergeants on Friday, 15 May at 1600 hours, Tradewinds Enlisted Club (beverages/pupus). The event is sponsored by the 15 AW and the Hickam Chiefs Group. See your unit First Sergeant or any Hickam CMSgt for details. POC: CMSgt Maureen Lowe, Maureen.lowe@hickam.af.mil.

**Asian Pacific-Islander American Heritage lunch**

— This is scheduled 14 May, an APAH-featured lunch at Hale Aina Dining Facility (1030-1300). Call Ms. Buasy Machado Chairperson, APAH Month 2009, at 449-3535.

**AF Ball car wash**

— Car wash volunteers are needed on 17 May beginning at 0800. The car wash is one of many different events planned to help offset ticket prices for the 2009 Air Force Ball. Shifts will be from 0800-1000, 1000-1200, 1200-1400 and 1400-1600. Units welcome! Contact TSgt Afryea Clark at 449-3693 to sign up.

**Wingman Relay, Bench Press contest**

— Check out these fitness events coming up: Wingman 10K Relay on 23 May,

0700 at Hickam Beach parking lot; Categories: 2-person, 4-person, and 6-person team. Bench Press contest on 30 May at 0900. For more information, contact the Fitness Center at 448-2214. Entry forms available online. Click the Fitness Center link at hickamservices.com.

**Bellows NAF sale**

— Bellows AFS will be having an NAF sale on May 9 from 0800-1400 at Family Circle. 0800-0900: Active Duty cardholders and dependents. 0900-1400: All other Military cardholders and dependents. Check out the Web site for more information [www.bellowsafs.com](http://www.bellowsafs.com)

**Volunteers needed for Keiki Fishing Tourney**

— The Keiki Fishing Tournament is June 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Ho'omaluhia Park, Kaneohe. This event is open to children ages 5 to 12. Volunteers are needed to help measure and record fish caught during the tournament. For more information or to volunteer, contact SSgt Erin Smith at 449-1531 or [erin.smith@hickam.af.mil](mailto:erin.smith@hickam.af.mil). Sign up by June 8.

**15 Airlift Wing Equal Opportunity Office**

— We are here to assist in the resolution of discrimination complaints based on race, color, religion, national origin and sex (to include sexual harassment). Please call 449-1701 for any questions or concerns.

**CPR, First Aid and defibrillator training available**

— The Red Cross offers classes in life-saving skills. Call the Hickam Red Cross at 449-0166.



Photo courtesy of Hickam Community Housing

# Residents win Wii for doing survey

Loreen Hulihe'e, Community Manager for Hale Na Koa, left, awards Senior Airman Dustin Brown and his family a Nintendo Wii. They were one of five lucky winners of a game system, which was an incentive to Hickam Community Housing families to participate in an annual resident satisfaction survey. Other winners were CMSgt. Russell Carpenter, Earhart Village; TSgt. Angela Custer, Hale Na Koa II; Maj. Ed Haskell, Officer Field Area; and MSgt. Christopher Kalakay, Onizuka Village. The survey report is expected in June.

# Saluting the professionalism of nurse and medical technicians

By Hickam Kukini staff

HICKAM AIR FORCE — All across the United States, Nursing Personnel are being saluted. The 15th Medical Group will be celebrating Nurse and Medical Technician Week from May 6-12.

The purpose of this special recognition week is to raise awareness of the commitment nursing personnel make every day in meeting the health care needs of the public we serve in both peacetime and wartime.

In honor of the dedication, commitment and tireless efforts of the nurses and medical technicians within our military healthcare system, we are proud to recognize them for the quality work they provide, 24/7/365.

National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as National Nurses Day, through

May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. This year's theme is Nurses: Building a Healthy America.

As of 1998, May 8 was designated as National Student Nurses Day, to be celebrated annually.

And as of 2003, National School Nurse Day is celebrated on the Wednesday within National Nurses Week (May 6-12) each year.

Often described as an art and a science, nursing is a profession that embraces dedicated people with varied interests, strengths and passions because of the many opportunities the profession offers.

For more about National Nurses Week, visit <http://nursingworld.org>.

— Information provided by 15th Medical Group and the American Nurses Association